

LBJ Felt Plot, CIA Tie—Aide

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Lyndon Johnson told an aide in 1967 he felt the CIA was somehow connected to a plot to assassinate his predecessor, John F. Kennedy.

The comment was made "in an off moment" to Marvin Watson, who relayed it to FBI official Cartha D. DeLoach. DeLoach recorded it in a memo contained in the 40,001 pages of Kennedy assassination files released last week by the FBI.

Watson said Johnson told him "that he was now convinced there was a plot in connection with the assassination. Watson stated the president felt that CIA had had something to do with this plot."

Watson asked for any pertinent material the FBI had on CIA involvement.

DeLoach said in the memo that he "reminded Watson that the director (the late J. Edgar Hoover) had sent over to the White House all the information in our possession in connection with CIA's attempts to use former agent Robert Maheu and his private detective outfit in contacts with Sam Giancana and other hoodlums, relative to fostering a plot to assassinate Castro."

"I told (Watson) we had no further information in this regard."

Elsewhere in the files is a 1964 letter from Hoover to publisher William Randolph Hearst saying "in my own mind I am convinced (Lee Harvey) Oswald assassinated the president."

The FBI files record that the bureau conducted some 25,000 interviews in its investigation, many of them trying to trace evidence of any plot.

One involved Frank Sturgis, later convicted as a Watergate burglar, who said shortly after Kennedy's assassination Nov. 22, 1963, that Oswald had been in telephone contact with Cuban intelligence a year earlier. Sturgis said Oswald was active in pro-Castro activities in Miami during the same period.



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